

Marcella's Bagels

Marcella was walking home from the beach one day. She had just bought a big bag of bagels and was going to share them with her daughter Sonya. On the side of the road she saw two people collecting food for needy families. Well, Marcella decided that she had quite a few bagels in her bag. Sonya didn't need that many bagels. "Here," said Marcella, "you can have half of my bagels for the needy." The people were very happy to get all those bagels. Marcella thought for moment and then said "Aw, take one for each of yourselves." So there went two more.

As Marcella walked along the beach, some surfers came out of the water. They saw, and even smelled, the fresh bagels she had. "Could you by any chance spare a few bagels?" they pleaded. "We are so-o-o hungry after riding all those gnarly waves." As you might imagine, Marcella was not thrilled. But she had a good heart and recognized hunger after physical exertion, so she handed her bag to the surfers. They took half of her bagels and then, just as they were about to hand the bag back, they took two more. Now Marcella was a very reasonable person who liked to help others. She thought she still had enough bagels left to make Sonya happy. She walked on.

As you may already have guessed, Marcella didn't get far before she had another encounter. Just before she reached home, her friend Susan approached. After exchanging greetings, Susan explained that she was on her way to get some bagels for her family. Susan seemed to be in a bit of a rush.

Generosity overtook Marcella and she found herself saying, "Why don't you save yourself the trip and take some of my bagels? As you can see, I've got several." So Susan took half of what Marcella had in the bag and then two more.

Marcella finished her walk home without further interruption. When she opened her once bulging bag of bagels, she discovered that there were only two left! She had a bagel lunch with her daughter Sonya, and then there were none!

How many bagels did Sonya's mother start with?

Please write this problem up for your 3rd write up. Be sure to include all your work and follow the guidelines for write ups. For a possible extensions, try redoing the problem if Marcella ended with a different number of bagels or have her give half and a different number each time.

Due: _____